

which they feared Roger, first as Duke and now as King, would impose upon their liberties, civic or territorial. For Capua and Naples it was a protest against the loss of their independence.

The rising, which began in September, 1131, was encouraged and long sustained by the prospect of the attack upon Roger from the north. But that attack was so delayed that the King was able for the time to stamp out the revolt.

If the mainland had acknowledged Roger once as Duke it had scarcely been consulted as to his royal title, and he himself saw that it must be imposed by the sword. Amalfi was the first of the belligerents to move. The King had requested the citizens to hand over to him the custody of their fortresses. The request, infringing as it did the treasured city liberties, was refused, and the King ordered the city to be forced into acquiescence. ^x She was blockaded by George of Antioch from the sea, and by a royal army under the Admiral John from the mountain slopes behind.

At Roger's arrival from Sicily after his coronation festivities the city surrendered (February, 1131). Naples had prepared to join in, but staggered at the fall' of Amalfi, Sergius made a timely submission. The city "which since the time of the Ro-

mans scarcely ever was conquered
even by the
sword now submitted to Roger because
of a mere
report." So says Alexander of Telese;
the sub-
mission, however, seems merely to have
been one

* Al. Tel., bk. ii., ch. vii.